

The Lost Axe Head (2 Kings 6:1-7)

Proposition: Every one of us as servants of God can be effectively used by God by noting the important aspects of the account before us tonight.

I. The Scene of a Purposeful Life (Vs 1-4)

A. The Call that is Received (Vs 1)

B. The Cause that is Realized (Vs 1-2)

C. The Commitment that is Realized (Vs. 3-4)

II. The Symbol of a Productive Life (Vs 5)

A. Our Part in the Work (Vs 5a)

B. Our Power in the Work (Vs. 5a)

III. The Story of a Powerless Life (Vs. 5b-7)

A. The Axe Head Was Lost (Vs. 5b-d)

B. The Axe Head Was Located (Vs. 6a-b)

C. The Axe Head Was Lifted (Vs. 6c-7)

The Lost Axe head 2 Kings 6:1-7

Some people are eager to see their pastor "find another church" in
Well praying for your pastor
could cause me to be more effective

but in truth real effectiveness
in the work of God is squarely
based on the work of the Holy
Spirit in the life of the preacher,
missionary, evangelist, teacher, deacon
layman. Our effectiveness as a
church depends on God's work in
our lives by his Holy Spirit. I re-
member the early years of my own
relatively short years in the ministry
and all that God was doing then. I was
taught and assured that if God was
going to do anything in my life
SS class, church or ministry, it was
going to be done not so much by
my ability, but my availability
to be filled and used by the Holy Spirit.
The story before us tonight reminds
us of how to have an effective life for
God. Everyone of us can be effectively used.

I The Scene of a Purposeful Life

When we look at this account we see
people that have a life of purpose!
The Christian life is a life of purpose

There is a divine purpose in our lives
A. The Call that is Received - Notice
the sons of the prophets. These were
young men that God had his hand upon
and had called for a particular purpose.
Vs 2 latter "Go ye" This should remind
us that we all have been called with an
holy calling. Just like these men we are
called to a specific work. Glorify for the glory

B. The Cause that is Realized - Vs 1
This place is too strange. Elisha is
professor, Dorn is too small. We
need more space. There is a cause
that lay before them. There is a
cause for us to serve God. Hell is
hot. Heaven is sweet. There is a reason
to give ourselves to God's work.

C. The Commitment that is Required
Vs 3-4. The committed to this cause
dids more than just talk. They
grabbed an axe, went out to labor.
Talk is cheap. What about a
commitment. I am ready to devote
some time, some effort, I am willing
to open myself up to labor for God.

II. The Symbol of a Productive Life
Vs 5. Yes there is a call a cause a
commitment to a purposeful life. That
is our part. But there is something

- 1) ...In Your Pastor and You, author Richard DeHaan has some excellent tips for vacating the pulpit. First, say "Amen!" once in a while, and he'll preach himself to death. Second, encourage him and brag on his work, and he'll probably work himself to death. Third, offer to help out with the ministry of the church and request the name of a person with whom you could go share the Gospel--your pastor just might die of heart failure. Or, finally, get the church to unite in prayer for the preacher, and he'll soon become so effective that a larger church will take him off your hands.
- 2) ...effectively used by God by noting the important aspects of the account before us tonight.

1) In a certain sense, the most talented musicians, the greatest of preachers, the wealthiest of members and be completely ineffective. If there be no axe head, if there be no working of the Holy Spirit, no manifestation of the power of God, then cut out the lights and lock the doors. History is filled with men like D.L. Moody, Charles Finny, George Whitfield, Jonathan Edwards.. men who's effectiveness can not be measured by their talents and ability, but by a power outside of themselves. It was a borrowed axe head. It's not his own. We need God's power!

- 1) Time, talents, and treasures are no substitute for the power of God. You can have the most talented musicians, the greatest of preachers, the wealthiest of members and be completely ineffective. If there be no axe head, if there be no working of the Holy Spirit, no manifestation of the power of God, then cut out the lights and lock the doors. History is filled with men like D.L. Moody, Charles Finny, George Whitfield, Jonathan Edwards.. men who's effectiveness can not be measured by their talents and ability, but by a power outside of themselves. It was a borrowed axe head. It's not his own. We need God's power!

else that makes that life productive.

A. Our Part in the Work - Notice that they were working. They took up the axes, they were felling the beam they were laboring. They were doing their part. Now what is your part?

Doing our part in the work may consist of devoting our time, our talents or our treasures. We see by example that you can't be effective for God by staying at home propping up the couch. Time must be devoted, come to visitation, come to Sunday night service and day, Talents, sing teach Prea

B. Our Power in the Work - This man was felling the beam. Although they were doing their part in the work

what made it effective was the price of metal on the end. They could have done their part and beat on those trees w/ axe handles all day long, but they would have never cut the trees down. The axe head is a symbol of the work of H.S. and Power of God in our lives. There is something outside ourselves that makes us effective in our labors. Time Talents Treasures

III. The Story of a Powerless Life

This is the real instruction in this story is in the area of becoming powerless. The tragedy of all tragedy is to

these words mean on your life. Vers 16

A. The Axe Head was Lost - This young student was whaling away at this tree then all of a sudden he realizes that he is no longer effective. The chips aren't flying any more. The trees not moving. The axe head was missing. That which made his participation powerful was gone. You see this is the story of many in the

B. The Axe Head was Located - Vs 6
He showed him the place. There where it went. Let me tell you, if you have lost the touch of God on your life the peace of God, the power of God, that all can be restored but you have got to go back to the place & reason you lost God's power. Was it when you got angry. Bitter, envious

C. The Axe Head was Lifted - Vs 6.

You can lose the touch of God but this text reveals that it can be recovered. Note cut down sticks and cast into water. Wood always a picture of death of Christ on cross. We must paint it out, confess it and call on the merits of Christ's death on the cross to cleanse of sin.

IV. Closing - My preacher told story of a meeting he went to in Alabama. A lady got up to sing. He said it seemed like God was all over her. After singing the 1st verse she gave the testimony. She said...

- 1) ...many in the church of God today. Powerful, used of God at one time, then becoming ineffective.
- 2) ...bitter, envious, proud. If you are going to get that power that touch back on your life you are going to have to go right back to where you lost it. Deal with why you lost it. The place of departure is always the place of recovery. Is it some sin, bitterness, some falling out. When I began to miss on Wednesday night or Sunday night. Get it right with God. Confess
- 3) Wouldn't you like for God to touch your life and use your life once again. You can! Come the the place where you lost, admit it to God confess it. Call upon his mercy and grace to be forgiven and restored, reunited with that effective touch of God 1s again.
- 4) ...she said she used to be the most devoted in the church. She did every thing from singing and teaching to even getting things for the fellowship hall. She was being used by God, then one day something happened between her and another lady in the church. She got angry and hurt. She said she couldn't stand the sight of the other lady. It wasn't long till she was mad at the preacher and the church as a whole. During that time she notices that the power was gone from her teaching, that God stopped moving when she sang. One night she just finally broke down and confessed that it wasn't the other lady, or the preacher, or the church that was wrong it was her. She got right with God. She said I've never enjoyed serving and loving the Lord more than she does today. Bro. Ken said the took off in to the second verse and they like to tore the building down. You can be restored! The Place of departure is the place of recovery.